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11-2009

News From the Flock, Vol. 2009 Issue 8

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

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NEWS FROM THE FLOCK . . .

November/December 2009

Volume 2009-8

Calendar of Events:

Next Meeting: Dec. 3, 2009 meeting's program will be presented by Steve and Margaret Hoyle, from Crawford State Lake, formerly known as Farlington Lake. They will present a program, "Meandering the Maritimes," showing birds they saw along the 10,259 miles they traveled last summer. 7:00PM, Room 102, Yates Hall, PSU Campus. Refreshments served. Guests welcome. Open board meeting at 5:45, 3rd Floor Hecket-Well Hall.

Next Field Trip: Christmas Bird Count, Jan 1, 2010, Meet at 7 AM at Express Lane Station in Scammon, KS for assignment. Cost is \$5.00 person.

Book Sale: SEK Recycling Center will hold a book sale Nov 19-21 at the facility, 615 S. Joplin.

Bird Seed/Craft Sale: Dec. 5. 9 to 5 at Meadowbrook Mall, Pittsburg, KS.

FYI—

Website:

<http://pwp.surfglobal.net/rmangile/Sgas/index.html>

Mailing Address:

SGAS
PO BOX 205
Pittsburg, KS 66762

Articles for submission for January newsletter may be sent to hartley@mobill.net by January 8, 2010. Articles should be in WORD; pictures as JPEG.

Newsletter is published monthly September thru May.

Stone Honors Willis Contribution

Galena, KS. Oct. 21, 2009 Anne Willis and SCAS friends laid a memorial stone in the bird watching/flower garden area at Schermerhorn Nature Center, Galena, KS. Roger was instrumental in securing the one-way bird watching window and the water system for the fish pond. Viewing this area always brings excitement to young visitors. He felt that the Nature Center was a significant vehicle for children and adults to experience the outdoors.



State of the Forest Birds

The following article are excerpts for State of the Birds: The 2009 Report, stateofthebirds.org.

Of 310 forest-breeding birds nationwide, 22% are species of conservation concern, including 11 federally listed as endangered or threatened. Roughly one-third of all forest-breeding species have declined. The overall indicator for forest birds, based on 96 species with adequate data, declined by roughly 10% through 1980, then recovered slightly in recent years. The eastern forests indicator, based on data for 25 obligate species or birds representing an important group of species that are most characteristic of a habitat and most sensitive to environmental problems--declined steadily over the past 40 years, dropping by nearly 25% since 1968. In subtropical forests of South Texas and Florida, many species are known to be expanding their range northward, perhaps in response to warming temperatures. Development and Disturbance—Rapid urban growth threat-

ens forests. Development increased from 15 million to 60 million acres during 1945–2002 and is still increasing exponentially. The loss of economic incentives for private forestry has led to the sale and subdivision of forest industry lands and a rapid rise in second-home and other ex-urban development, causing forest loss and fragmentation. Decades of unnatural fire suppression have created fuel for more intense fires, dramatically increasing the acreage burned in recent years. Historically, natural fires burned large areas of some forest types annually, but were less intense. These fires were essential for the health of forests and their wildlife. The U.S. harvests 21.2 billion cubic feet of timber from forests annually. Harvest increased by 40% during 1950–1980, but has declined since 1985. More than half of all timber comes from southeastern forestlands, 87% of which are privately owned. Only a small portion of timber originates from federal

lands, but important forest types such old-growth forests in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska remain available for logging.

Invasive Species—Nearly every important tree species is afflicted by an exotic insect pest or disease, which will likely be exacerbated by a changing climate. Mountain pine beetle has killed vast areas of western pine forests and the hemlock woolly adelgid threatens eastern hemlock with extinction within 50 years. Unnaturally high populations of white-tailed deer have destroyed the shrubby under story of many eastern forests, contributing to declines in forest-nesting birds.

Reasons for Hope—Forest-breeding raptors, such as Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Merlin, as well as tree-nesting Bald Eagle and Osprey, have responded positively to protection from shooting, banning of harmful pesticides, and abundant prey in urban areas

Meeting Minutes

Board, Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society
3rd Floor, Heckert Wells Hall, PSU
October 29, 2009

General Meeting, Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society
Yates Hall, Room 102
October 29, 2009

Attending: Cindy & Steve Ford, Delia Lister, Bob & Liz Mangile, Diane McCallum, Barb Robins.

Call To Order By President Lister: Done so at 5:50 p.m.

Treasurer's Report (Liz): Checking account balance of \$3,717.81.

Old Business:

Programs (Delia for Ann): She will talk further with Ann and Mavis.

Surveys (Delia): She has them to give to the general membership and will wait till the next meeting to hand them out.

T-Shirts (Delia): They are here and we can begin selling them tonight--\$12 (\$13 for XXL).

Bird Seed Sale, Dec. 5 (Bob): Arrangements have been made for seed and thistle; Bob and Liz purchased suet cakes to sell. Bob has a sign-up sheet ready to go. We will sell ground feeders for \$10 and bird houses for \$7.

Recycling Center Volunteer Days (Steve): Perhaps we should talk to Dr. Triplett to see if we can commit on a month-by-month basis, perhaps the second Saturday after the monthly meeting. The board agreed.

Field Trips (Diane): November 7th at Crawford State Park (Farlington).

New Business:

Roger Willis's memorial stone was placed in the bird feeding/pool area at the SEK Nature Center in Schermerhorn Park on October 21. Barb will write a brief description of his achievements for the window overlooking the stone. Liz has a scrapbook of chapter photos if anyone wants it.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15.

--Barb Robins, Secretary

Bird Sightings: Rough-legged Hawk Junco, Short-eared Owl, White-throated Sparrow, White-faced Ibis.

Announcements:

President Delia Lister displayed the new chapter T-shirts and invited us to buy them after the meeting.

Diane McCallum invited us to go to Crawford County State Park on November 7. Meet at Applebee's at 8 a.m. and we will carpool to cut down on the fee-per-car expense.

Our bird seed sale is Saturday, December 5. Ground bird feeders, bluebird boxes, handmade crafts, and baked goods will be sold—please bring the latter two the day of the sale and sign up now to work the table or the feed truck.

Bob Mangile mentioned that we have the book, Green Guide, to loan out. Does anyone know where our copy of the DVD, An Inconvenient Truth, is?

Please submit items for the newsletter by November 10th.

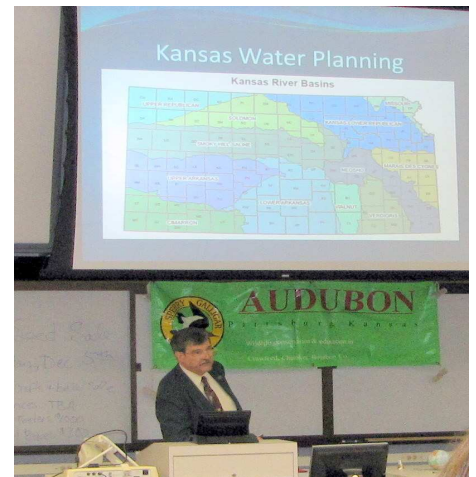
Due to the holidays, the next meeting will be December 3.

Our chapter purchased the memorial stone for Roger Willis, and it was placed in the bird feeding/pool area at the Southeast Kansas Nature Center, Schermerhorn Park, Galena, on October 21.

Delia's naturalist quiz concerned orangutans: what is the connection between them and popcorn? (Answer: clearing forests in Indonesia for palm oil plantations is destroying their habitat.)

Featured Speaker:

Delia introduced Dr. James Triplett, of the PSU faculty and SEK Recycling Center. He had two topics for us: "Water Supply Issues", and "Update on the Recycling Center." He gave a chronology



of events contributing to future water shortages in Southeast Kansas and explained the principal water source, the Ozark Aquifer, and its place in the Neosho basin. Studies indicate our water quality and quantity will decline primarily due to sedimentation in the Neosho basin corridor. He explained the water source overlap in Kansas and Missouri and outlined cooperation obstacles, bureaucracy and politics, occurring between the two states. Options for the future were mentioned, including off-stream storage.

Concerning recycling, Dr. Triplett introduced Carl Hayes and Chuck Delp; he reminded us that the center moved to its new facility in 2004 and has received numerous grants as well as setbacks in the form of vandalism and illegal dumping. Their recent accomplishments include e-waste collection and plans for hazardous materials collection. They would like to start a "pay as you throw" program and are working on that as well as installing a fence around the property. He announced another day's addition to the semiannual book sale—it will be Thursday-Friday, November 19-21. He invited us to become members and to look at the center's website, sekr.org.

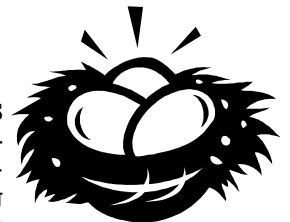
Door Prize: Carl Hayes

--Barb Robins, Secretary

From My Nest

Comments by Editor

The end of the year appears to be providing members of the SGAS with many opportunities. SGAS has long supported the SEK Recycling Center through donations of time and money. Member attendance at the Book Sale will further support the conversation effort. Our next meeting will be on December 3 and it will be the only meeting before our Feed and Craft sale. It will be the only meeting until January, 2010. The SGAS Feed and Craft Sale has been our major source of income. Our crafts selection has always been outstanding at reasonable prices; our feed is a good buy. Check out our new T-shirts at the next meeting. The design has our logo on the front and special design on the back. All sizes are \$12 except for XXL which is \$13.



Small Wooded Areas Can Be Important



Protected forest with a winding stream is considered luxury accommodation for a migratory bird, but birds may be just as happy with the equivalent of a cheap roadside motel. John Dunning and Diane Packett of Purdue University found that migrating birds are just as likely to stop in small woodlots (an area with a canopy of trees) in the middle of an agricultural field for the night as long as there is adequate protection and food. Dunning said the finding suggests that conservation efforts should extend to smaller forested lands to help stabilize declining migratory bird populations. They observed woodlots at three distances from Indiana's Wabash River and its tributaries -- within half a kilometer, between one and five kilometers and at about 20 kilometers. The woodlots were less than 20 acres and had row crops surrounding them on at least three sides in the spring and the fall. There were 76 different species of migratory birds found in the woodlots, with no statistical differences in the number of species or overall population of birds based on distance from streams. As forests have been cleared for development, agriculture and other uses, those birds have to make do with whatever patches of forest they can find when they become tired or encounter bad weather. But many urban areas or open fields aren't suitable for migrating birds because they are vulnerable to predators in these open habitats. That makes the small woodlots important refuges, according to the study. The findings are especially timely since smaller forested areas may be in danger because of increased manufacturing of ethanol. He said producers could be enticed to eliminate the woodlots to provide material for ethanol production. Dunning said, "The big concern now is the emphasis on biofuels. If they get to the point where it's economical to use wood for cellulosic ethanol, those small woodlots could disappear," Dunning said. "If people have the impression there's nothing of value there, they could cut down all the trees and plant more corn on it."

Source: Abstracted for material from Purdue University (2009, August 19). Migratory Birds Not Picky About Their Rest Stops, Study Finds and appeared in *ScienceDaily*, September 21, 2009, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/08/090812145030.htm>

Be a "Citizen Scientist!"

By Steve Ford

The annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count is one of the oldest on-going conservation efforts in the country. These large-scale programs have recently come under the impressive name, "Citizen Science." The idea is that since so many people -- we're talking many thousands -- do the same thing, in the same way, over a period of so many years, that the results are indeed scientific, even though most participants are not truly scientists. Species abundance has been monitored for some 110 years. Changes have been duly considered. These changes are particularly important as habitats shift and decline, and as global warming finally seems to be catching the general



public's attention. Locally, you should participate. Not a strong birder? Don't matter. Go with someone who is a mildly interested



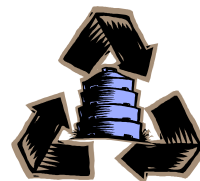
There's many interested friendly person who got a jump-start on birding via the back seat of a car slowing driving down a country road on a Christmas Count. Even if you don't know someone personally going on a CBC, just show up and you'll be taken good care of. Counts in this area Parsons, Joplin, Prairie State Park. SGAS's area is the Mined land in Cherokee Co. It meets January 1, at the Express Lane Station, just west of Scammon (go south of the intersection of Highway 400 and 7 about 5 miles). We'll meet around 7 am. You'll be a citizen scientist and you'll have a good time. Call Steve Ford if you have any questions (620-632-4280). There is a \$5 fee for processing data.

Green Tip—

A Quick and Easy Compost Pile.



Hate to rake and bag leaves? I do. So I use leaves to form a compost pile. Put them in a container that so they can be compressed. I use some used hog wire that I put together in a 4 foot circle. I



place the leaves in the wire frame. I place boards (or anything flat) on top with bricks to weigh the leaves down. About four feet of leaves will compress to about 18 inches of organic material that can be used as good nutrients for a flower bed or garden. Compost piles may be added to with household garbage and covered with additional leaves over the winter. I turn mine every few weeks.

Liz's Larder

By Liz Mangile

Spiced Nuts make a good snack for just sitting around or to put in a fancy container for a quick gift.



1/4 pound of butter or margarine melted.
2 egg whites beaten
1 cup sugar
1 pound pecan (or other nut)

Mix sugar and egg whites. Mix in pecans and melted butter. Place mixture on cookie sheet one layer thick. Bake in oven at 350 degrees for 30 minutes stirring often. If you want to spice up nuts, add cinnamon before baking.

Around the Corner

Birding Quick Stops
By John Hartley



If you haven't got more than a few minutes to bird, try the area to the north of the Frontenac football field and ball diamonds. You can get there by turning east at the intersection of US-69 and West McKay. Continue east until you see a white fence that surrounds a cemetery. Turn north at the road just before the fence and drive to a maintenance building. There is a tree line with old pits. The area in front of the tree line and pits is mowed. You can almost always find a killdeer in the fields. Sparrows, indigo buntings, and flycatchers are good possibilities.



Application for Membership Form

Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society

—For an introductory rate of \$20 you can become a member of both The National Audubon Society and SGAS. You receive four copies of the National Audubon Magazine and all local SGAS newsletters.

—For \$15 you can become a member of the local SGAS and receive only the local newsletters.

—If you wish join National Audubon and local SGAS, complete this form along with a check made out to National Audubon Society and return SGAS treasurer.

—If you wish to join only the local SGAS, complete this form along with \$15 and return to SGAS treasurer.

Make checks out to SGAS.

Mail address is SGAS, PO Box 205, Pittsburg, KS 66762

I wish to join both organizations and am enclosing \$20.

I wish to join only the local SGAS and am enclosing \$15.

Please Print information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Chapter Code: **COZJ100Z**

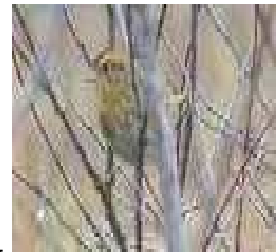


| Financial Statement for October, 2009 | |
|--|------------------|
| Beginning balance----- | \$3954.62 |
| Credits | |
| 09/18/09---Direct deposit National Audubon-- | \$447.75 |
| Total----- | \$447.75 |
| Debits | |
| 09/30/09---First Edition 50 SGAS T-shirts---- | \$577.00 |
| 10/06/09---Bird Suet to sell at feed sale----- | \$ 96.48 |
| 10/13/09---Newsletters printed----- | \$ 11.08 |
| Total----- | \$684.96 |
| Ending balance----- | \$3717.81 |

Submitted by Liz Mangile, Treasurer

Bird Facts

Nelson's sharp-tailed and sea-side sharp-tailed sparrow have changed names (not that it mattered to the sparrows). "Sharp-tailed" has been dropped from each name. Nelson's (picture at the right) migrate through our area in October to the coastal marshes along the Gulf of Mexico. This sparrow is similar to the grasshopper, Henslow's, and Le Conte's sparrow, more commonly seen in the four state area. The salt-marsh sparrow is seen almost exclusively on the Atlantic coast.



return address—

SGAS
PO Box 205
Pittsburg, KS 66762



November/December

Attention All Members

Dues Due

If the box is marked, our records indicate that your membership has expired. Please consider rejoining as a member of the local SGAS only. The local chapter receives 100% of the dues paid.